



UNITED NATIONS

Distr.
GENERAL

SG/CONF.7/4
16 August 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON
MINE CLEARANCE
Geneva, 5-7 July 1995

Report of the International Meeting on Mine Clearance

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. ORGANIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON MINE CLEARANCE	1 - 18	3
A. Introduction	1 - 4	3
B. Opening of the Meeting	5	3
C. Attendance	6 - 12	3
D. Election of officers	13	6
E. Adoption of the rules of procedure	14	6
F. Agenda	15	7
G. Organization of work	16	7
H. Information meeting	17	7
I. Exhibition on mine clearance	18	7
II. HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT	19 - 31	8
General statements by participants and announcements of contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance	22 - 31	8
III. PANELS OF EXPERTS	32 - 39	10
Discussion on the technical aspects of mine clearance and mine-related issues	32 - 39	10

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
IV. STRENGTHENING AND PROMOTION OF THE STANDBY CAPACITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN MINE CLEARANCE	40 - 42	11
V. CONCLUSION OF THE WORK OF THE MEETING	43 - 44	12
<u>Annexes</u>		
I. Opening statement made by the President of the International Meeting on Mine Clearance at its high-level segment on 6 July 1995		13
II. Statement made by the Secretary-General to the International Meeting on Mine Clearance at its high-level segment on 6 July 1995		16
III. Opening remarks made by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs at the opening of the International Meeting on Mine Clearance on 5 July 1995		20
IV. Introductory statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs on the strengthening and promotion of the standby capacity of the United Nations in mine clearance		23
V. Pledges announced at the International Meeting on Mine Clearance to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance and to the standby capacity of the United Nations in mine clearance		27
VI. Composition of the panels of experts		35
VII. Summary of the discussions of the panels of experts		39
VIII. Concluding statement made by the President of the International Meeting on Mine Clearance on 7 July 1995		42
IX. List of documents before the Meeting		45

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON
MINE CLEARANCE

A. Introduction

1. In its resolution 49/215 of 23 December 1994, entitled "Assistance in mine clearance", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to consider the convening, as early as possible, of an international meeting on mine clearance, to include a meeting of experts and a meeting of potential donors, in order to promote the work of the United Nations and international cooperation in this field.

2. Pursuant to that request, the Secretary-General decided to convene an international meeting on mine clearance. The International Meeting was held at the Palais des Nations at Geneva from 5 to 7 July 1995, a high-level segment being held on 6 and 7 July. (For further details of the high-level segment, see sect. II below.)

3. The objective of the International Meeting was to promote the work of the United Nations and international cooperation in the field of mine clearance. In order to achieve that objective effectively, the Meeting sought political and financial support for United Nations mine-clearance programmes from the international community.

4. Attention is also drawn to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 49/215, by which the Assembly welcomed the establishment by the Secretary-General of a voluntary trust fund to finance, in particular, information and training programmes relating to mine clearance and to facilitate the launching of mine-clearance operations, and appealed to Member States as well as to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the voluntary trust fund.

B. Opening of the Meeting

5. On 5 July, on behalf of the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs opened the International Meeting and made a statement. (For the full text of the statement, see annex III.)

C. Attendance

6. The following States were represented at the International Meeting: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco,

/...

Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yemen and Zambia.

7. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

European Community

International Civil Defence Organization

League of Arab States

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Organization of African Unity

Organization of American States

Organization of the Islamic Conference

Sovereign Military Order of Malta

Western European Union

8. The following entities, having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in sessions and the work of the General Assembly, also attended the International Meeting: the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

9. The following United Nations bodies and programmes were represented:

United Nations Secretariat:

Office of Legal Affairs

Department of Political Affairs

Department of Peace-keeping Operations

Department of Administration and Management

Centre for Human Rights

Economic Commission for Europe

United Nations Children's Fund

United Nations Development Programme

World Food Programme

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

10. The following specialized agencies were represented: the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization.

11. The following non-governmental organizations were also represented:

Anti-mine Action Project

Berliner Informationszentrum

Care UK

Caritas Internationalis

Ciet International

École Polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne

Équilibre

Friends World Committee for Consultation

Handicap International

Human Rights Watch

InterAction/Operation USA

International Association for Humanity's Future

International Committee for European Security and Cooperation

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, German Section

Jesuit Refugee Service-Europe

Medico International

Mines Advisory Group

Mine Victims Fund

Norwegian People's Aid

/...

Organization for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation

Soldiers of Peace International

Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response

Terra Segura

Terre des Hommes

Transasia Surveys

United Nations and its Related Agencies Staff Movement for Disarmament and Peace

Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation

World Information Clearing Centre on Global Problems

World Peace Council

World Vision International

12. A list of participants in the International Meeting was circulated in document SG/CONF.7/INF.1 and Add.1.

D. Election of officers

13. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 5 July, the International Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

President: H.E. Mr. Erik Derycke (Belgium)

Vice-Presidents: H.E. Mr. Virgil Constantinescu (Romania)
H.E. Mr. Abdul Rahim Ghafoorzai (Afghanistan)
H.E. Mr. Aguiar Jonassane Reginaldo Real Mazula
(Mozambique)
H.E. Mr. Hugo Palma (Peru)

E. Adoption of the rules of procedure

14. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 5 July, on the proposal of the temporary President, the International Meeting decided that the proceedings of its meetings would be governed by the Rules of Procedure for United Nations Pledging Conferences (A/33/580) on the understanding that, in accordance with rule 22 of those rules, any procedural matter arising at the International Meeting that was not covered by the rules of procedure would be settled in accordance with the rules applicable to committees of the General Assembly of the United Nations (A/520/Rev.15 and Amend.1 and 2).

F. Agenda

15. At its 1st plenary meeting, the International Meeting adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document SG/CONF.7/1, as follows:

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure, agenda and organization of work.

High-level segment

4. General statements by participants and announcements of contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance.

Panels of experts

5. Discussion on the technical aspects of mine clearance and mine-related issues.
6. Strengthening and promotion of the standby capacity of the United Nations in mine clearance.
7. Conclusion of the work of the Meeting.

G. Organization of work

16. Also at its 1st plenary meeting, the International Meeting approved the programme of work proposed in the annex to document SG/CONF.7/1.

H. Information meeting

17. On 5 July, a presentation focusing on the work accomplished to date to revise Protocol II of the Convention dealing with landmines, was made by H.E. Mr. Johan Molander (Sweden), Chairman of the Group of Governmental Experts to Prepare the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects. The information meeting was followed by a question-and-answer period.

I. Exhibition on mine clearance

18. In conjunction with the International Meeting, participants were invited to view an exhibition on mine clearance and related activities, which was held at the Palais des Nations. The exhibition demonstrated, in an integrated manner, the impact of landmines on affected populations and the endeavours undertaken by organizations of the United Nations in this field. As a contribution to this

/...

exhibition, a number of internationally acclaimed photographers displayed pictures.

II. HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

19. The high-level segment of the International Meeting was held on 6 and 7 July 1995. The President of the Meeting made an opening statement. (For the text of the President's statement, see annex I.)

20. The Secretary-General addressed the high-level segment of the International Meeting. (For the text of the Secretary-General's statement, see annex II.)

21. Following his opening address, the Secretary-General introduced to the participants a young Somali girl, Fadumo Bihi Koshi, a victim of landmines.

General statements by participants and announcements of contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance

22. At its 2nd to 4th meetings, on 6 and 7 July, the International Meeting heard general statements on item 4, "General statements by participants and announcements of contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance". It had before it a note by the Secretariat on international efforts to address the global problem of uncleared landmines (SG/CONF.7/2).

23. At the 2nd meeting, on 6 July, statements were made by the Honourable Cyrus R. Vance, Special Representative of the Secretary of State of the United States of America; H.E. Mr. José Luis Dicenta, Secretary of State of Spain for International Cooperation and Latin America, who spoke on behalf of the European Union; H.E. Mr. Emanuel Scammacca del Murgo e dell'Agnone, Under-Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs of Italy; H.E. Mr. Xavier Emmanuelli, Secretary of State of France for Urgent Humanitarian Action; H.E. Mr. Helmut Schaefer, Minister of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany; H.E. Mr. H. A. F. M. O. van Mierlo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands; the Honourable Mr. Gary Punch, M.P., Minister for Defence Science and Personnel of Australia; H.E. Mrs. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Austria; H.E. Mr. Jan Egeland, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway; H.E. Dr. José Bernard Pallais, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua; H.E. Ms. Joan Burton, Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland with responsibility for Development Cooperation; and H.E. Mr. Amine El Khazen, Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Mrs. Emma Bonino, Commissioner of the European Commission, made a statement on behalf of the European Community.

24. At the 3rd meeting, on 6 July, statements were made by H.E. Mr. Nigel C. R. Williams, C.M.G., Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office at Geneva; H.E. Mr. Volodymyr Khandogly, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Ukraine, H.E. Mr. Luis Valencia Rodríguez, Permanent Representative of Ecuador

/...

to the United Nations Office at Geneva; H.E. Mr. José Manuel Brios e Gala, Secretary of State for Cooperation of Portugal; H.E. Mr. Pekka Haavisto, Minister of the Environment and Development Cooperation of Finland; Mr. Andrew McAlister, Acting Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations Office at Geneva; H.E. Mr. Dimitar Mitkov, Deputy Minister of Defence of Bulgaria; H.E. Mr. Hisashi Owada, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations in New York; H.E. Mr. Virgil Constantinescu, Secretary of State, Department of Multilateral Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania; H.E. Mr. Robin Gray, Minister of State and Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand; H.E. Mr. Pierre Schori, Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden; H.E. Mr. Jakob Kellenberger, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland; H.E. Mr. George Chelmis, Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva; H.E. Mr. Auair Jonassane Reginaldo Real Mazula, Minister of National Defence of Mozambique; H.E. Mr. Abdul Rahim Ghafoorzai, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan; Mr. Eytan Bentzur, Senior Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel; H.E. Mr. Poul Nielson, Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark; H.E. Mr. Hugo Palma, Ambassador of Peru to France; H.E. Mr. Seung Ho, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office at Geneva; H.E. Mr. Ribor Toth, Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of Hungary; H.E. Mr. Robert Mroziewicz, Under-Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland; Dr. Javad Zarif, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs in charge of international and legal affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran; H.E. Mr. Tej Bunnag, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Mr. Phan Sothy, Vice-President of the Council of the Cambodian Mine Action; Msgr. Christophe Pierre, Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations at Geneva; H.E. Mr. Mounir Zahran, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations Office at Geneva; and H.E. Mr. Agus Tarmidzi, Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

25. Statements were also made by Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and by H.E. Count Edouard Decazes, Permanent Observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

26. Statements were also made by Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as by Ms. Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Mrs. Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and Mr. Anders Wijkman, Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

27. At the 4th meeting, on 7 July, statements were made by H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations in New York; H.E. Ms. Maria Krasnohorska, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Mr. Abdulatty Ibrahim Al-Oubaidy, Under-Secretary for European Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; Mr. Zdenek Venera, Head of the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva; H.E. Mr. Gunnar Snorri Gunnarsson, Permanent

/...

Representative of Iceland to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Mr. Mligna Saignavongs, Director, Department of Europe and America of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Mr. Manuel Benitez, Deputy Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations Office at Geneva; H.E. Mr. Satish Chandra, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Office at Geneva; H.E. Mr. Gilberto Vergne Saboia, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations Office at Geneva; H.E. Dr. Miomir Zuzul, Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations Office at Geneva; H.E. Mr. Guillermo Alberto Gonzalez, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Office at Geneva; H.E. Dr. Adriano Parreira, Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations Office at Geneva; Mr. Ansis Reinhardt, Permanent Mission of Latvia to the United Nations Office at Geneva; H.E. Mr. J. B. Seleibi, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations Office at Geneva, and H.E. Dr. Abdel Rahman Guide, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

28. Statements were also made by Mr. Ruben M. Perina, Coordinator of the Demining Project of the Organization of American States (OAS); and H.E. Mr. Abderrahmane Benseid, Permanent Observer of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) at Geneva.

29. Mrs. Catherine Bertini, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), also made a statement.

30. On the recommendation of the Bureau, the Meeting also heard statements by the following non-governmental organizations: Mr. Stephen Goose, Programme Director, Human Rights Watch, on behalf of the International Campaign to Ban Land-Mines; Mr. Sayed Aqa, Mine Clearance Planning Agency in Afghanistan, on behalf of non-governmental organizations active in actual mine clearance; and Dr. Rebecca Larson, Lutheran World Federation, on behalf of non-governmental organizations rendering assistance to victims of landmines.

31. During the deliberations of the high-level segment, participants announced pledges to activities relating to mine clearance, to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance. (A list of the pledges announced is contained in annex V.)

III. PANELS OF EXPERTS

Discussion on the technical aspects of mine clearance and mine-related issues

32. At the 1st plenary meeting, following the decision taken by the International Meeting, nine panels of experts were established for a discussion on the technical aspects of mine clearance and mine-related issues (agenda item 5).

33. The panels were convened on 5, 6 and 7 July 1995 under the chairmanship of the Vice-Presidents of the Meeting.

/...

34. The panels exchanged views on the themes set out below:

- (a) Mine surveys;
- (b) Current methods of mine clearance;
- (c) Training indigenous deminers;
- (d) Management of demining operations;
- (e) New technologies in mine and minefield detection and mine clearance;
- (f) Treatment and rehabilitation of landmine victims;
- (g) Emergency mine clearance - problems and solutions;
- (h) Education and training in mine awareness;
- (i) The integrated mine-clearance programme - concept and practice.

35. Background Papers Nos. 1 to 9 were circulated to participants to facilitate the discussion of the aforementioned issues in the panels.

36. A list of the composition of the panels of experts is contained in annex VI to the present report.

37. At the 6th plenary meeting, on 7 July, the Vice-Presidents of the International Meeting, in their capacity as presiding officers of the panels of experts, reported on the deliberations of their respective panels as follows.

38. H.E. Mr. Virgil Constantinescu (Romania) reported on Panels A, E and G; H.E. Mr. Abdul Rahim Ghafoorzai (Afghanistan) reported on Panels B and D; H.E. Mr. Aguiar Jonassane Reginaldo Real Mazula (Mozambique) reported on Panels C and F; and H.E. Mr. Hugo Palma (Peru) reported on Panels H and I.

39. A brief account of the discussions of the panels is contained in annex VII to the present report.

IV. STRENGTHENING AND PROMOTION OF THE STANDBY CAPACITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN MINE CLEARANCE

40. The International Meeting considered item 6, "Strengthening and promotion of the standby capacity of the United Nations in mine clearance", at its 6th meeting, on 7 July. It had before it a note by the Secretariat (SG/CONF.7/3) on the subject.

41. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs made an introductory statement. (For the text of the statement, see annex IV.)

42. Statements were made by H.E. Mr. Thomas McNamara, Assistant Secretary for Political-Military Affairs of the Department of State of the United States, and

/...

by H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations Office at Geneva. (For pledges to the standby capacity, see annex V.)

V. CONCLUSION OF THE WORK OF THE MEETING

43. At the 6th plenary meeting, on 7 July, the Vice-Presidents of the International Meeting, in their capacity as presiding officers of the panels of experts, reported on the deliberations of their respective panels (see para. 38 above).

44. The President of the International Meeting on Mine Clearance made a concluding statement. (For the text of the President's statement, see annex VIII.)

ANNEX I

Opening statement made by the President of the International
Meeting on Mine Clearance at its high-level segment on
6 July 1995

1. Allow me first of all to thank you for the trust you have just placed in my country by appointing me to the Presidency of the International Meeting on Mine Clearance, whose general debate I am opening today. Be assured that I am perfectly aware of the honour you have bestowed on me and of the special responsibility I have to bear. I hope that the July 1995 Meeting on Mine Clearance will prove to be an important step in the campaign against mines.
2. At the outset I should like to emphasize the qualities of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who, recognizing the urgency of the problem and the concern of the international community, speedily convened the meeting requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/215 of 23 December 1994. He instructed Mr. Hansen, Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, to organize this meeting. I should like to thank him and his entire team for doing so.
3. In the initial stages of our debate, it is worth recalling the extent of the problem. It is estimated that over 100 million anti-personnel mines have now been laid on the surface of our planet. The affected regions have suffered major disruption, the various after-effects of which weigh heavily on the reconstruction of their economies and the re-establishment of civil peace.
4. Mines are the most insidious of these after-effects. They pose a lasting threat and are a major obstacle to the safety of local populations and to the resumption of their normal activities. Even when the fighting is over, mines continue to kill and maim at the current rate of 500 casualties a week.
5. In this regard, it is impossible not to think of the many children who are crippled by anti-personnel mines every week.
6. Far from diminishing, the problem is getting worse. In 1993, mine clearance operations world wide disabled approximately 100,000 mines, but during the same year 2 million new mines were laid. The challenge we face is therefore enormous because it is quick, easy and cheap to lay mines, whereas clearing them is expensive, difficult and dangerous.
7. This gloomy picture should be qualified, however. The international community is aware of the seriousness of the situation and of the urgent need to find a solution in a spirit of necessary solidarity. This awareness has led a number of countries to announce a moratorium on the export of these devices. In this regard, I should like to express my satisfaction at the measures taken by many of them, including the European Union; the Spanish Presidency of the Union will have an opportunity to describe these measures in more detail later. An important step has therefore been taken to restrict the flow of anti-personnel mines at source, and this should have an impact in the future.

/...

8. In the same spirit, the convening of the Review Conference on the Convention on Inhumane Weapons is also particularly welcome. Failing a complete and final elimination of anti-personnel mines, which remains a distant yet attainable ideal, this Meeting will endeavour to restrict and control the use of mines in the hope of mitigating their residual effects which are so familiar to us at the present time.

9. As President of this Meeting, I should also like to pay a special tribute to non-governmental organizations and many other international organizations. Many of them have studied this issue constantly and have sought to focus world public attention on the mine problem. In the field, their operations have often distinguished themselves in terms of scope and efficiency, and have in many respects been exemplary.

10. But what concerns us today is the tremendous task of mine clearance. The fact that we have gathered for a high-level meeting here in Geneva is a measure of the awareness of the problem and the political will to find solutions. These solutions involve setting up structures and establishing an extensive technical base; they also require considerable financial resources. Our Meeting should respond to this dual need. For two days, nine groups of experts will identify mine clearance problems; they will exchange their experience and outline possible ways in which the international community can take coordinated and coherent action. For although much remains to be done, the experience accumulated thus far is far from negligible. Mine clearance operations in Angola, Afghanistan, Cambodia and other countries have enabled us to acquire considerable experience. However, these operations have often been conducted piecemeal, with the result that the lessons learned have not always been fully shared.

11. One of our tasks will be to intensify this exchange of information and ensure that it continues.

12. To this end, my country wishes to see the strengthening of the international mine clearance centre under the authority of the United Nations Secretary-General. This centre should have at its disposal a staff of experts who would not only take stock of the problems but also set up the indispensable database. The centre would maintain cartographical databases on affected areas and technical information on existing mines; it would also provide useful information on mine clearance techniques and developments in that respect. The centre could also facilitate contacts between national mine clearance services and, by acting as a focal point for their experience, make such information generally available. It would be a source of planning assistance for anyone who wished to use it; more generally, it would be a resource that would inevitably promote common interests. The current thinking in the Secretariat, in the form of the demining standby capacity, seems to me a step in the right direction.

13. I should now like to launch a triple appeal. The first appeal is addressed to those countries which possess the technical and financial capabilities essential for our task. I urge these countries to provide whatever technical, human and financial contributions they feel they can give. Anti-personnel mines pose the threat of such a major humanitarian disaster that only international solidarity can remedy the situation. This solidarity has operated in the past

and, although it seems to me to be assured in the future, we would prefer it to be stronger and more coordinated; donor countries would thus make their efforts more productive and thereby greatly help the beneficiaries of mine clearance.

14. My second appeal is addressed to countries which are afflicted by anti-personnel mines, because a meeting such as ours cannot do useful work without speaking the truth. Affected countries should know that international assistance must be based on the local population's willingness to take action against mines. They should know that mine clearance will be impossible without a return to peace. Continued fighting entails more mine-laying, obstruction of mine clearance in the theatre of operations and the depletion of international goodwill. International assistance, which is necessarily limited, will be directed to areas where it stands a realistic chance of yielding results.

15. My third appeal is for everyone to think more comprehensively about mines. It seems to me that the time has come to start thinking about an international convention banning anti-personnel mines, modelled mutatis mutandis on the conventions banning the use of chemical and biological weapons. Although this will be a long and complex exercise, the difficulty of the task should not, however, discourage us from banning weapons which are a source of real tragedy for many populations. Would it not be a good idea to entrust the Conference on Disarmament with the preliminary studies for a convention of this nature?

16. Let me conclude by briefly outlining the Belgian position. This year, my country banned all anti-personnel mines outright. The manufacture, use and sale of such weapons are henceforth outlawed. We hope that many other countries will shortly join us in adopting a similar policy. With regard to financing, Belgium was among the first to contribute to the funding and organization of this Meeting. In the field, we are currently conducting a third mine clearance operation in Cambodia, and we are ready to consider other operations in which our experts could take part on request.

17. The results of the Meeting whose general debate which opens today will be extremely important both from the humanitarian point of view and with regard to development assistance. I urge all delegations not to lose sight of this fact. I am aware of the hopes which have been pinned on us, and am confident that our work will be successful.

ANNEX II

Statement made by the Secretary-General to the International
Meeting on Mine Clearance at its high-level segment on
6 July 1995

1. The Conference that brings us together today is a major event in the international community's efforts to deal with the intolerable situation caused by the proliferation of anti-personnel landmines throughout the world. To my mind, this question is of the utmost importance and must therefore be addressed with all due dispatch. Ever since I took up my duties I have sought to draw the Security Council's attention to this problem. In "An Agenda for Peace", I stressed that mine clearance was an essential activity in post-conflict peace-building. This is precisely why we are meeting today. I am convinced that the international community must take specific and tangible steps to address the problem of mine clearance in a specific and concrete manner.

2. Because of their number and the threat that they pose, anti-personnel landmines are a matter of great priority. We all know that, today, approximately 100 million mines remain planted, often haphazardly, in all present or past conflict zones. It is estimated that more than 60 countries are affected by this scourge. Each year, more than 10,000 people are killed by exploding landmines. Anti-personnel landmines are therefore real weapons of mass destruction. This method of mass destruction is both perverse and insidious since it blindly strikes civilian populations, often long after conflicts have ended.

3. Today the international community is beginning to understand the seriousness of landmines. The measures that have been taken within the framework of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects address anti-personnel mines as a matter of priority. And the countries that produce such mines have by and large responded to the General Assembly's appeal for a moratorium on their export. Moreover, the recent review of the Protocol on Landmines has resulted in several proposals that could, most assuredly, make it possible to limit the proliferation and indiscriminate use of mines and thus better protect civilian populations.

4. Yet, even as we undertake such normative action, we need to take concrete, immediate and wide-ranging mine-clearance measures. This is our concern today. The United Nations is already active in this area. In particular, the Organization has begun a number of programmes that provide assistance in mine clearance, within the framework of humanitarian operations, as in Afghanistan or Iraq, and peace-keeping missions, as in Mozambique or Somalia, or as part of post-conflict peace-building, as in Cambodia. Moreover, the United Nations is getting ready to carry out a major mine-clearance programme in Angola and to provide, in the near future, assistance in mine clearance in Rwanda, Georgia, Chad and the former Yugoslavia.

5. Many United Nations agencies participate directly or indirectly in such operations; these include the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the

/...

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Development Programme. Moreover, non-governmental organizations and the private sector are today indispensable agents of United Nations activities. Nothing can be achieved without their effective participation.

6. However, we are all aware that this will be a long and arduous task, especially when we consider that, for every 120,000 landmines that were removed last year, 2 to 5 million were planted in at least 17 different conflict zones. The international community must therefore step up its mobilization efforts. This is the main objective of our Meeting.

7. I should like to thank in advance all participating States for their contribution to mine-clearance programmes. I am certain that this International Meeting will promote our discussions on the more technical aspects of mine clearance, in particular on the means of recording the location of mines, on methods of removing them, on the training of mine-clearance personnel, on the organization of mine-clearance operations and on new technologies that can be applied in this area. Moreover, we shall have to address the fundamental issue of how to heighten public awareness and understanding of the problem of mines. Our Conference will have to consider the important project of establishing a special mine-clearance reserve fund in order to strengthen the United Nations capacity to respond to emergency situations. Finally, we shall have to study ways to coordinate our mine-clearance efforts more effectively.

8. We all know that mine clearance should, first of all, be the concern of the affected States or participants in the conflict that use or control the use of mines. However, we also know that these States alone cannot solve a problem that is largely beyond their capacity. The countries most seriously affected are often those with the fewest available resources and thus those most in need of international solidarity.

9. Our Meeting must therefore be another resource for promoting international cooperation. Such cooperation, in my view, must take the form of not only technical but also financial assistance. For we all know that if a mine costs three dollars, the cost of removing it is 100 to 300 times higher.

10. This is why I called for the establishment in November 1994 of a voluntary trust fund for assistance in mine clearance. Today this Fund is administered by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs at United Nations Headquarters. Its purpose is to mobilize additional resources for the financing of mine-clearance programmes, the mapping of mined areas, the purchase of equipment and access to expert services and specialized bodies. It should also help to heighten public awareness of the danger posed by anti-personnel landmines.

11. This, then, is my opportunity to urge all participating States, and especially the most powerful among them, to contribute to the financing of this Fund. For we all bear a special responsibility where mines and their elimination are concerned. I consider this appeal to be especially urgent in the light of the commemoration at this very moment in Geneva of the fiftieth anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations. Now more than ever before, we have a duty to uphold the promises of the Charter and the solemn commitment made 50 years ago to save succeeding generations of the scourge of war.

/...

12. Yet the existence and proliferation of anti-personnel landmines are a blatant violation of the principles we are striving to uphold! Landmines are the very negation of the physical integrity and life of the human person. Let us remember that, during the course of this Meeting, some 80 persons around the world will be killed by anti-personnel mines and another 150 will be permanently mutilated.

13. Mine clearance is thus an absolute necessity, for landmines are a major obstacle to post-conflict peace-building and to development in war-ravaged areas. Indeed, the existence of minefields constantly isolates and threatens communities, depopulates vast regions and renders them unusable, making any return to normality impossible.

14. Mobilization of the international community is particularly urgent given that the proliferation of local conflicts, the increasing availability of technology and the lure of gain have favoured the building up of new arsenals of conventional weapons in which landmines, unfortunately, figure prominently.

15. The special nature of the conflicts ravaging the world today makes these mines even more dangerous. For most of these conflicts no longer take place between States, but within nations. Often it is not armies but civilians who are the victims of this awful weapon. What is more, mines are frequently planted not by regular armies but by bands or roughly organized groups. This makes mapping their location even more difficult and increases the hazards faced by those involved in mine clearance. And here I should like to pay a solemn tribute to all those who take part in mine-clearance operations at the risk of their own lives. For we are all aware of the heavy and cruel price these individuals have already paid in the service of peace.

16. I have spoken here briefly of my deep concern but also of the hope I place in your Meeting and in your efforts. But I should like to conclude by stressing once again that these mine-clearance missions, so urgent and necessary, will not assume their full significance unless we at the same time apply rigorous and radical rules and principles.

17. I therefore wish to state solemnly here before you that we must eliminate landmines once and for all! We must ban their use! We must ban their production! We must destroy those that are stockpiled!

18. The Convention on Chemical Weapons, signed in Paris in January 1993, clearly indicates the path we must follow. And here I would recall for you its first two articles.

19. In article 1, States solemnly undertake never "to develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile or retain ... or transfer ... chemical weapons" and never to use them.

20. In article 1, each State Party undertakes "to destroy all chemical weapons it owns or possesses or that are located in any place under its jurisdiction or control ...".

21. These provisions set a precedent and an example that should inspire us. The elimination of weapons that they anticipate must become our goal. It is this goal that will inspire the mine-clearance activities that are the focus of our Meeting today. And as we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations, our mobilization and our determination will be the noblest tribute we can pay to the founding fathers of the Charter.

22. I thank you for the work you are doing.

ANNEX III

Opening remarks made by the Under-Secretary-General for
Humanitarian Affairs at the opening of the International
Meeting on Mine Clearance on 5 July 1995

1. On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, I should like to welcome all of you, representatives of Governments, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system, the non-governmental organizations and so many others who are concerned with the issue of landmines, to this International Meeting on Mine Clearance. Your presence here today is a reflection of the concern of the international community over the scourge of landmines. It is an expression of solidarity with mine victims, it is a commitment to help the affected societies and nations and it is a resolve to find a long-term solution for this world-wide problem.
2. One of the most daunting humanitarian challenges that we face today is the eradication of the landmine problem afflicting some 64 countries, from Afghanistan to Angola, from Cambodia to Costa Rica, from Nicaragua to Namibia and from Mauritania to Mozambique. In those countries, 10,000 innocent children, women and men are killed annually and at least double that number maimed. As if the removal of the estimated 110 million mines already in the ground itself was not an extraordinary task, an estimated 2.5 million new mines are being laid each year. As we meet 5 new landmines are being laid every minute, 300 each hour or 7,200 every day.
3. The agony of the societies and communities living with these hidden killers, the human cost and the personal trauma of their victims is incalculable.
4. While landmines were originally laid as military obstacles, their impact on the civilian population makes them a serious humanitarian problem. Their wide-ranging effects upon societies as a whole cause them to have an adverse impact on every facet of daily life and almost every activity engaged in by the humanitarian assistance organizations.
5. Where villages are mined, refugees and displaced persons cannot return home; where agricultural fields are mined, farmers cannot plant and harvest crops; where roads are mined, food relief cannot be delivered by vehicle; and where power lines, highways and irrigation systems are mined, development cannot move forward. Landmines prevent people from living normal lives and countries from returning to normalcy and stability.
6. In Cambodia, many areas that used to produce an agricultural surplus are now dependent upon food relief because landmines prevent farmers from tilling their fields. In Nicaragua, landmines laid around bridges and electrical power-relay stations make it difficult to maintain and repair these facilities. In Angola, it is estimated that there are more than 20,000 amputees caused by landmines. The burden of providing the necessary surgery, medicines, rehabilitation training and prosthetic devices has proved to be such a strain on

the national medical infrastructure that other more general health programmes have had to be curtailed.

7. Within the United Nations system, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs acts as a focal point and catalyst for coordination, for policy formulation and for mobilization of international efforts to address the landmine issue. This includes mine-clearance activities, especially the creation of indigenous demining capacities, mine-awareness training, assistance to mine victims and advocacy to help stop the proliferation of landmines. In carrying out those responsibilities, the Department works closely with the Department of Peace-keeping Operations of the Secretariat, and with United Nations organizations and many non-governmental organizations.

8. In the course of this Meeting we should be able to develop a deeper understanding of the scope and magnitude of the landmine crisis and how the affected societies are learning to live amidst them and how the problem may be addressed more effectively.

9. Many entities of the United Nations system are actively engaged in addressing different aspects of the landmine crisis. The United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization have provided mine-awareness training and assistance in 17 countries across four continents. The World Food Programme has cleared roads to provide relief to starving populations in Angola, Mozambique and the Sudan. The World Health Organization is providing special training to physicians to help them treat landmine injuries and is helping coordinate efforts to strengthen the medical systems in a number of mine-affected countries. The United Nations Development Programme is providing management expertise to assist Governments to run mine-action programmes.

10. Non-governmental organizations such as Norwegian People Aid, the Mines Advisory Group, the Halo Trust and the Committee Cap Anamur, often working as close partners with the United Nations, are also engaged in these efforts. At the same time, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Médecins Sans Frontières have been active in providing medical aid and rehabilitation assistance to landmine victims.

11. These efforts are unfortunately not enough in view of the magnitude of the tasks that confront us. A tremendous increase in resources in both the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance and in the United Nations demining standby capacity is critically needed in order to enhance and accelerate the efforts of the international community in this field.

12. Most of the affected countries do not have resources to devote to mine-clearance programmes and often depend on the United Nations for assistance. In 1994 the United Nations sought \$67 million to fund mine-action projects in Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Georgia, Mozambique, Rwanda and Yemen.

13. Mine-clearance activities alone cannot solve the problem. Simultaneous and energetic actions are required on several fronts. First of course is the issue of landmine exports. The General Assembly has already called for a moratorium on such exports. This should be fully implemented quickly and effectively. Secondly, greater focus and attention need to be given to research into and development of new technology and mine-clearance equipment. The third aspect is that of resources: existing resources, in terms of money, personnel and equipment, need to be substantially increased.

14. This Meeting provides an important opportunity to address the landmine issue. The outcome of the deliberations of its panel discussions can serve as a common agenda for an international consensus on a blueprint for future endeavours to rid the world of this menace.

15. The panels will begin their work today. The themes the panels will take up are critical to the overall approach and for the formulation of a strategy for addressing the landmine issue. Participants in the panel discussions bring valuable and diverse experience and can identify core issues within each specific area that merit the attention of the Meeting.

16. The Meeting can help mobilize public opinion and resources for mine-assistance activities and at the same time generate support for accompanying political action on the moratorium on the export of landmines.

17. If we all work together to stop the proliferation of landmines, to develop new technologies for landmine detection and destruction, and to strengthen and improve current mine-clearance efforts, I am confident that we can make progress in our common struggle to rid the world of landmines.

ANNEX IV

Introductory statement by the Under-Secretary-General
for Humanitarian Affairs on the strengthening and
promotion of the standby capacity of the United
Nations in mine clearance

1. We have just concluded the general discussions on the global landmine crisis and announcements on government pledges towards the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all participants for their support for activities in mine clearance as well as for the approaches being developed by the United Nations to address this major problem. The importance of creating and strengthening a United Nations demining standby capacity has already been noted by Governments. Let me briefly address this point.

2. The United Nations has developed a broad strategy to address the landmine problem. Simply put, the strategy focuses on the creation of indigenous national mine-action programmes. Such programmes contain elements to conduct mine-awareness training, programme management and medical treatment as well as mine clearance. That strategy was outlined in the Secretary-General's report on assistance in mine clearance, which was submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, in September 1994.

3. A central element of the strategy is the United Nations demining standby capacity, which is designed to allow the United Nations to draw more efficiently upon the resources of personnel, equipment, facilities and services being made available by Member States for assistance in the field of mine action. Drawing upon the experiences of other bodies of the United Nations system in creating and operating standby capacities, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs has created a standby capacity designed to be both simple and flexible.

4. In the past, in many operations the United Nations has sought to obtain direct support for mine-action programmes through contributions in kind of personnel and equipment. In Afghanistan, personnel donated by Member States worked with the United Nations Office for the Coordinator of Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes relating to Afghanistan.

5. In Cambodia, military personnel contributed to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, established demining schools and trained indigenous deminers.

6. In Mozambique, mine-clearance instructors from five countries established a mine-clearance training school and trained more than 500 Mozambican deminers and mine surveyors in a six-month period.

7. We would like to continue this close cooperation with Member States in addressing the landmine crisis. We have held initial consultations with Member States about the functioning of the standby capacity and we recognize that it is impossible for us to foresee all of the possible problems that may occur. However, we are confident that the general structure of the standby capacity is

/...

sound and that with close cooperation and support from Member States the standby capacity will be an important element of the United Nations programme to address the global landmine crisis.

8. For the United Nations demining standby capacity to serve the function for which it was designed there is a clear need for contributions in kind in the form of personnel, equipment, facilities and special services.

Personnel

9. The following is a sample of the types of personnel who are needed for the standby capacity:

- (a) Personnel to train deminers, demining supervisors and demining site managers;
- (b) Personnel to conduct assessment missions;
- (c) Personnel to do mine-survey work;
- (d) Personnel to establish and train local people to run management structures, communications nets, accounting and budgeting departments, and maintenance programmes;
- (e) Personnel to establish clinics and provide paramedic services in support of demining teams;
- (f) Graphic design, printing experts and information specialists to help set up and run mine-awareness campaigns;
- (g) Explosive ordnance disposal specialists to handle those rare but dangerous situations United Nations personnel are not trained to handle and to train local explosive ordnance-disposal specialists to continue this work.

Equipment

10. In terms of equipment, the following is urgently needed:

- (a) General equipment such as tents, blankets, boots, clothing and pots and pans;
- (b) Four-wheel drive vehicles and medium-sized trucks;
- (c) Ambulances and medical equipment and drugs;
- (d) Mine detectors;
- (e) Body armour;
- (f) Helmets;
- (g) Explosives and detonators for destroying mines.

/...

Services

11. The following services are needed:

- (a) Logistics and transportation services to provide the ability to move personnel and material from donor to victim countries;
- (b) Medical evacuation services and air transport for deminers and survey teams;
- (c) Sea transport for vehicles and heavy equipment.

Facilities

12. Access to facilities is also an area in which contributions could be made, such as:

- (a) Explosive ordnance, engineering and mine-clearance schools;
- (b) Medical facilities, rehabilitation clinics and hospital beds in surgical units for mine victims.

13. To make such contributions as easy as possible, we have developed a relatively simple system. Countries would indicate the following:

- (a) What they are donating, whether it is personnel, equipment, facilities or expertise;
- (b) How long it would take them to make such contributions available;
- (c) For how long the donation could be used and whether donated equipment could be left behind for use by the local demining organization;
- (d) Any special restrictions.

14. For contributions of personnel, it is to be understood that such contributions would be made to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs for work in the area of humanitarian mine-action operations. It is envisioned that the donor country would pay the salary, insurance, medical costs and any other standard costs for the personnel they donate. Those contributions in kind made to the United Nations demining standby capacity will be registered in the central landmine database of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs. Before any contribution is used, the donor Government will be consulted.

15. The clear value of these contributions in kind has been demonstrated time and time again in past United Nations mine-action programmes. The standby capacity will give us the ability to identify quickly those countries willing to make such contributions and the conditions under which they can be utilized. By having this knowledge, the United Nations will be better able to draw upon the good will and support of Member States to address more effectively a number of mine-action requirements. I hope that the steps we are taking here today will form the basis for a strong and effective partnership in the days and years to

/...

SG/CONF.7/4
English
Page 26

come among all of us concerned with the landmine crisis. Together, we can make a difference. Thank you for your support.

/...

ANNEX V

Pledges announced at the International Meeting on Mine Clearance to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance and to the standby capacity of the United Nations in mine clearance

(United States dollars)

Donor country/ organization	Total pledge a/ Trust Fund	Standby capacity of the United Nations in mine clearance			Comments
		United Nations Trust Fund	Standby capacity	Goods and services Personnel Equipment Other	
Argentina					United Nations Trust Fund Other It is Argentina's intention that the expenditure caused by the demining of the Malvinas Islands (Falkland Islands) is to be considered a contribution to the Trust Fund. Argentina also contributed with Argentine military experts in demining operations in Angola, Kuwait, Nicaragua and Panama within the framework of the peace-keeping forces of the United Nations and through OAS.
Australia	3 381 295	395 772			United Nations Trust Fund Other Pledges of \$359,712 + \$36,060 already deposited in the Trust Fund. Cambodia - \$1,798,561 to support the work of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre. In addition, some \$575,540 will support the efforts of the Australian Army in demining assistance. Will also provide \$107,914 to the Australian Red Cross for the treatment and rehabilitation of landmine victims. Afghanistan - \$287,770 to UNOCHA. Mozambique - \$179,856 for mine-awareness and clearance operations through the United Nations. Will also be supplemented by the activities of the Australian Army in Mozambique, which will cost some \$215,827. Angola - \$215,827 for mine-clearance and awareness activities.
Austria					Will make available expert personnel or demining equipment and will participate in the United Nations data bank on landmines. Mozambique - \$1,030,928 over the next three years for demining activities. Details and channelling of this contribution will be subject to further consultation. Afghanistan - supports United Nations mine clearance with an annual contribution of about \$160,000 to UNOCHA. Will continue to support this programme. Austria makes other substantial contributions through the Austrian National Commission for UNICEF and the Austrian Red Cross.
Belgium	180 000	180 000			United Nations Trust Fund Standby capacity Form submitted. Contribution already deposited in the Trust Fund. Breakdown indicated is \$150,000 during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly and \$30,000 towards the cost of the International Meeting. Participation in the demining programme for Cambodia.

Donor country/ organization	Standby capacity of the United Nations in mine clearance				Comments
	Total pledge \$/	United Nations Trust Fund	Standby capacity	Goods and Personnel services	
Brazil	3 000	3 000	b/	United Nations Trust Fund Standby capacity Other	Money has already been deposited in the Trust Fund. Ready to study ways and means to contribute personnel to these efforts. Brazilian specialists from the armed forces have participated in programmes in Nicaragua, Honduras and Suriname under the aegis of the Inter-American Defense Board.
Bulgaria			b/	Other	Ready to provide qualified technical experts and training.
Cambodia	432 900			Other	For the financial year 1995, Cambodia has set aside \$432,900 for the Cambodia Mine Action Centre.
Canada	145 985	145 985		United Nations Trust Fund Other	Initial contribution. Canada has provided over \$1.6 million since 1993 to help reduce the suffering caused by landmines in Afghanistan, Cambodia and Angola. Cash contributions from CIDA to the United Nations have also supported training and local capacity-building for mine clearance. In addition, Canadian forces are closely involved in clearing landmines and research.
Czech Republic	22 500	2 500		United Nations Trust Fund Other	On 28 June, decided to contribute \$20,000 to the Trust Fund and \$2,500 to the organization of the International Meeting. Ready to contribute to the efforts in mine clearance and offer some technical assistance.
Denmark	922 509	922 509		United Nations Trust Fund Other	Initial contribution: Denmark will also consider contributing to specific mine-clearance programmes as the need may arise. Experts and training.
Egypt				Other	
Finland	934 579			Other	Finland will contribute close to \$1 million to mine clearance in 1995. A part of this contribution has already been channelled to demining activities in Afghanistan and Cambodia. Also intends to channel a part of its contribution to mine-clearance programmes in Angola. Furthermore, Finland will provide a contribution to mine-awareness programmes in Mozambique through UNHCR.
		500 000		United Nations Trust Fund Standby capacity	Approximately \$500,000 will be given to the demining programmes coordinated by DHA. This consists in part of an amount to be determined later to the United Nations Trust Fund, and in part of Finnish equipment and technical expertise, as feasible. Intends to provide a part of its contribution for mine clearance as Finnish personnel and equipment to the United Nations demining standby capacity.

Donor country/ organization	Standby capacity of the United Nations in mine clearance				Comments
	Total pledge a/ United Nations Trust Fund	Standby capacity	Equipment	Personnel Goods and services Other	
France	409 836	409 836			United Nations Trust Fund Will contribute up to FF 2 million (\$409,836) to the Trust Fund.
Germany	7 194 245				Other DM 10 million for mine clearance, training and mine- awareness campaigns over the next three years. Funds are intended for bilateral projects as well as for suitable measures proposed by DHA. They will be used mostly for the most affected third world countries. Also considering mine clearance as an integral part of agricultural projects where required, since rural development is not possible if uncleared mines threaten the lives of the farming population. Germany also intends to support the Trust Fund with its planning and coordination with a data bank covering all known types of mines world wide.
Greece					Other Greece has contributed to the demining funds of Afghanistan in 1992 and 1994 and of Mozambique in 1992. Greece is also considering making further contributions in the coming years. Would like to contribute a symbolic sum to the United Nations Trust Fund.
Holy See	4 000	4 000			United Nations Trust Fund Hungary is ready to offer, with the support of the international community, expertise and technical knowledge, as well as trained personnel of the armed forces to participate in various United Nations operations in this area. Hungary is also ready to share new methods and equipment that increase the safety of mine-clearing activities. Hungary is also willing to offer, against reimbursement, medical treatment in the hospitals of the Hungarian army.
Hungary					Other Hungary is ready to offer, with the support of the international community, expertise and technical knowledge, as well as trained personnel of the armed forces to participate in various United Nations operations in this area. Hungary is also ready to share new methods and equipment that increase the safety of mine-clearing activities. Hungary is also willing to offer, against reimbursement, medical treatment in the hospitals of the Hungarian army.
Iceland	5 000	5 000			United Nations Trust Fund Has already contributed to the United Nations Trust Fund (\$5,000). Other Technical expertise and assistance would have to be limited to the treatment and rehabilitation of landmine victims but in this field there are possibilities that are being explored both as far as medical care and the development of prosthetic devices are concerned.
India	50 000	50 000			Standby capacity In-kind contribution in the form of a broad range of services to be rendered by Indian experts. These services will include establishing mine-control centres and fielding mine-survey teams, mine-clearance teams, mine-clearance supervisory and training and advisory teams. These teams will be fully equipped with equipment required for mine-clearance operations.
Indonesia	40 000	40 000			United Nations Trust Fund Contribution to be used to help people affected by mines, especially in Cambodia.

Donor country/ organization	Total pledge \$/	Standby capacity of the United Nations in mine clearance				Comments
		United Nations Trust Fund	Standby capacity	Equipment	Personnel	
Ireland	163 399	163 399				Initial non-earmarked contribution to the Trust Fund. However, a condition of their assistance is that it not be used to finance mine-clearance activities undertaken by companies involved in arms or landmine manufacturing. Also looks forward to being in a position to give sustained financial assistance to United Nations activities in demining in the future.
	653 595					Intends to maintain its level of bilateral support for demining activities at the 1994 level. To date Ireland has funded demining activities and mine-awareness programmes that have been integrated into rehabilitation programmes in Mozambique, Angola and Cambodia.
Islamic Republic of Iran						Fully prepared to provide training and advisory services to the United Nations
Israel	33 000	33 000				The contribution of \$30,000 is in addition to the \$3,000 contributed towards the cost of the International Meeting.
						Israel would like to cooperate with other countries in research and development of mine clearance. Israel is carefully considering the possibility of offering short-term courses in mine clearance in countries where the problem exists. Israel also contributed \$3,000 to the seminar held at Phnom Penh, in June 1995, which dealt with the issue of mine clearance.
Japan	2 100 000	2 100 000				\$2 million is in addition to the \$100,000 contribution made for the cost of the International Meeting.
						To date, Japan has contributed close to \$20 million for mine-clearance activities of the United Nations (\$12 million to UNOCHA/\$100,000 to OAS in Nicaragua/\$2.5 million to the Cambodia Mine Action Centre/\$3 million to the Activities undertaken by UNPKO in the former Yugoslavia)
Latvia						Would like to put at the disposal of DHA personnel specialized in demining. Specialists have acquired expertise abroad but under extreme conditions. Latvia has personnel resources but no financial resources. In order to be operational it will be necessary to find bilateral or multilateral cooperation.
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	25 000	25 000				Also participated in the costs of the International Meeting.
Malta						Would like to make a limited but symbolic contribution to the United Nations Trust Fund.
Monaco	10 000	10 000				Did not make a statement but submitted form.

Donor country/ organization	Standby capacity of the United Nations in mine clearance				Comments
	Total pledge a/	United Nations Trust Fund	Standby capacity	Goods and Personnel services Other	
Netherlands	5 000 000				Other \$5 million will be made available over a two-year period for activities to be implemented in cooperation with the United Nations and other donor countries. Also, the Netherlands contribution to mine-clearance activities over the past three years has amounted to approximately \$8.5 million.
New Zealand	280 415	280 415			United Nations Trust Fund Will contribute \$NZ 100,000 (US\$ 66,667) per annum for the next three years. New Zealand also contributed US\$ 80,415 in December 1994 towards the strengthening of the Mine Clearance and Policy Unit A mine-clearance diving team and one diving support vessel on 28 days' notice to move and deployable for up to six months Fifteen engineers as demining advisers or instructors on 28 days' notice to move and available for an initial period of six months on the following conditions - they are not to lift mines and they are not to supervise mine clearance.
Norway	1 342 385	1 342 385			United Nations Trust Fund Pledges of \$1,292,407 + \$49,978 already deposited in the Trust Fund. Standby capacity Ready to contribute expert personnel to the standby capacity of the United Nations mine-action programme through the Norwegian Emergency Preparedness System. Ready to help out an exploratory mission and provide personnel and resources to start up United Nations mine-clearance and mine-awareness programmes Norway has spent more than \$20 million on mine-clearance operations and will allocate even more in the years to come. Additionally, Norway will start using a new large demining vehicle, which is expected to speed up the clearing of open fields either by detonating the mines or chewing them into harmless pieces. Norway looks forward to undertaking pilot projects with the United Nations to test this machine in the mine-prone areas.
Pakistan				b/	Standby capacity Will be able to offer a wide spectrum of its expert services. Looks forward to establishing contacts with DHA and other institutions interested in setting up or reinforcing mine-clearance operations.
Peru					United Nations Trust Fund Peru is planning to contribute to the United Nations Trust Fund and will announce the amount shortly.

Donor country/ organization	Total pledge a/	Standby capacity of the United Nations in mine clearance					Comments
		United Nations Trust Fund	Standby capacity	Equipment	Personnel	Goods and services	
Poland	44 000		44 000		b/		Poland offers, free of charge, one-month medical treatment in its national medical centres (including surgery, prosthetics and complex post-surgery rehabilitation) for 10 landmine victims a year.
	216 000		216 000		b/		Poland has also decided to second for a period of up to 12 months a group of nine qualified and experienced army officers to provide, under the aegis of the United Nations, training for indigenous mine-clearance teams.
Portugal	50 000	50 000				United Nations Trust Fund	Will make available for the first time a contribution to the United Nations Trust Fund.
	100 000					Other	On a bilateral level, Portugal will pursue a training programme with Angola in the field of mine clearance and has decided to increase its aid with an additional amount of \$100,000.
Republic of Korea						United Nations Trust Fund	Korea intends to make a voluntary contribution to the Trust Fund, subject to its domestic budgetary process.
Russian Federation						Standby capacity	The Russian Federation has presented candidates specialized in mine clearance for the register.
						Other	A federal programme for mine clearance is being finalized, based on similar programmes in regions infested with mines. Has an interest in collaborating with the United Nations and in the exchange of experience and developing technical cooperation.
					b/		Willing to participate in assisting other countries in need of mine clearing on a multilateral or bilateral basis, especially in training experts in detection and removal of Soviet-made mines and procuring mine-clearing equipment.
Saudi Arabia	50 000	50 000				United Nations Trust Fund	
Slovakia						Other	Willing to provide experienced deminers, especially in training deminers in other countries.
Spain	205 000	205 000				United Nations Trust Fund	\$175,000 to the Trust Fund plus an additional \$30,000 to DHA for the success of the International Meeting.
Spain (on behalf of the European Union)	4 000 000	4 000 000				United Nations Trust Fund	Use of this contribution will be discussed at a later date with DHA.
						Other	The European Union has also made a significant contribution to the success of the International Meeting.

Donor country/ organization	Standby capacity of the United Nations in mine clearance				Comments
	Total pledge \$/	United Nations Trust Fund	Standby capacity	Equipment Personnel services Other	
South Africa	10 000	10 000			Statement indicates that South Africa is not able at this stage to make a financial contribution to the Trust Fund. However, the form submitted shows \$10,000 towards the cost of the International Meeting.
	163 488		163 488	b/	Assistance in training programmes (management of demining, mine lifting and mine awareness) by covering personnel costs to the value of \$600,000 (\$163,488) in 1994/95, the South African contribution towards global demining efforts can thus be based on training and medical expertise as well as technical supervision and advice, depending on specific situations.
Sweden		1 000 000			Has decided to make a national contribution of \$1 million to the Trust Fund. (Statement received from New York indicates that this contribution has already been received.)
	6 000 000				The Government of Sweden and the Swedish Armed Forces have assigned approximately 56 million to the development of mechanical demining systems, as well as advanced systems and equipment for mine detection and mine destruction.
					Sweden has also contributed approximately \$20 million in recent years through the United Nations and other international and non-governmental organizations to demining operations in Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Iraq, Nicaragua and Angola.
					Currently studying how best Sweden can contribute to the stand-by capacity.
Switzerland	877 192	877 192			Of the total contribution of \$877,192, \$418,596 is with no special earmarking and \$458,596 is earmarked for demining programme in Angola.
					The contribution to the United Nations Trust Fund is in addition to Switzerland's support to ICRC and its bilateral programmes in the field of demining.
Ukraine				b/	Ready to provide training of indigenous deminers in their military institutions.
					Also ready to provide qualified military and technical experts for participation in mine-clearance operations under United Nations control or under bilateral agreements with other countries.
United Kingdom		987 175			First contributor to the Trust Fund, providing approximately \$159,000 to cover technical assistance to Yemen. (Money has already been deposited in the Trust Fund.)
					Recently provided a further approximately \$795,000 to the Trust Fund, some of which will ensure the running costs of the Mine Clearance and Policy Unit in its first year of operation. (Money has already been deposited in the Trust Fund.)

Donor country/ organization	Standby capacity of the United Nations in mine clearance					Comments
	Total pledge g/	United Nations Trust Fund	Standby capacity	Equipment	Personnel Goods and services Other	
United States of America		6 200 000				United Nations Trust Fund Consists of \$1 million cash, \$1 million cash to UNOCHA and \$4 million in Foreign Military Funding earmarked for specific multilateral demining programmes (\$2 million for Angola and \$2 million for UNOCHA - Equipment). An additional \$200,000 has already been deposited in the Trust Fund account to cover administrative costs of the International Meeting. Department of Defense \$1.5 million for Angola/USAID \$1 million for Angola. Exact allocation of funds to be determined. Anticipates similar resources becoming available in financial year 1996 but unable to commit 1996 funds until Congress completes fiscal deliberations in the summer.
	46 000 000		6 500 000			Standby capacity Other
European Commission						Other During the past three years, EC has already spent some \$10 million on mine-clearance projects in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Iraq, Mozambique and Somalia. It is examining the requirement for action in other countries.
Total	84 580 251	21 618 096	6 973 488			

a/ Represents overall indications by States or organizations of contributions/pledges to demining activities.

b/ Indicates possible support to the standby capacity.

ANNEX VI

Composition of the panels of experts

Panel A. Mine surveys

Panellists

Mr. Sayed Aqa
Director, Mine Clearance and Planning Agency in Afghanistan
(non-governmental organization)

Mr. David McCracken
Mine Survey Officer, Central Mine Action Office
Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit in Angola (United Nations
programme)

Mr. Thomas S. Reader
National Ground Intelligence Center, United States of America (Government)

Captain Jim Sawatzky
Civil Engineer, Royal Military College, Canadian Forces, Canada
(Government)

Panel B. Current methods of mine clearance

Panellists

Mr. Patrick Blagden
Demining expert
Department of Peace-keeping Operations, United Nations

Lt.-Col. François Estrate
Section technique de l'Armée de terre, France (Government)

Mr. Johann Martin Van Zyl
South Africa (Government)

Lt.-Cdr. David L. Courtney
United States Special Operations Command (Government)

Panel C. Training indigenous deminers

Panellists

Mr. Phan Sothy
Deputy Assistant Director, Cambodian Mine Action Centre, Cambodia

Lt.-Col. H. Van Geenen
Netherlands (Government)

Mr. Noel Spencer
Training Coordinator, Mine Clearance Programme
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to
Afghanistan

Major Mark Petree
Special Operations Command
United States Pacific Command (Government)

Panel D. Management of demining operations

Panellists

Mr. Halvard Bach
Norwegian People's Aid (non-governmental organization)

Lt.-Col. Steven Ransley
New Zealand (Government)
Former Chief Technical Adviser, United Nations Accelerated Demining
Programme in Mozambique

Mr. Francis M. Ssekandi
Deputy Director, General Legal Division
Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations

Lt.-Col. Steve Barilich
United States European Command

Panel E. New technologies in mine and minefield detection
and mine clearance

Panellists

Dr. Robert Spear
Defence Science and Technology Organization, Australia (Government)

Dr. Vernon P. Joynt
South Africa (Government)

Dr. Hans Lok
Director of Research, Department of Sensor Technology
National Defence Research Establishment, Sweden (Government)

Mr. Hap N. Hambric
Project Chief, Humanitarian Demining
Counter-Mine Division, Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate
United States Department of Defense (Government)

Mr. Hiroshi Tomita
Japan (Government)

Panel F. Treatment and rehabilitation of landmine victims

Panellists

Dr. Philippe Chabasse
Co-Director of Programmes, Handicap International (non-governmental
organization)

Dr. Kevin Cahill
President and Director, Center for International Health (non-governmental
organization)

Dr. Robin Coupland
Surgical Coordinator, Medical Division, International Committee of the
Red Cross

Dr. A. Lorette
World Health Organization

Panel G. Emergency mine clearance - problems and solutions

Panellists

Mr. Gerhard Bornmann
Demining Consultant, Germany
Former Adviser to UNHCR

Mr. Philippe Borel
Country Director in Cambodia, World Food Programme

Major J. N. Simonds
Mine Action Officer
United Nations Peace Forces

Panel H. Education and training in mine awareness

Panellists

Mr. Rae Macgrath
Director, Mines Advisory Group (non-governmental organization)

Mr. Neil Wright
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Ms. Miriam de Figueroa
Assistant Representative, United Nations Children's Fund in El Salvador

Mr. Stuart Maslen
Research Officer, Study on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children
United Nations Children's Fund

Panel I. The integrated mine-clearance programme - concept
and practice

Panellists

Mr. George Focsaneanu
Former Head, Landmine Programme, United Nations Transitional Authority
in Cambodia

Mr. Ian Mansfield
Programme Manager, Mine Clearance Programme
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to
Afghanistan

Lt.-Col. Steven Ransley
New Zealand (Government)
Former Chief Technical Adviser, United Nations Accelerated Demining
Programme in Mozambique

Mr. William Howell
Mines Department Coordinator, Handicap International (non-governmental
organization)

ANNEX VII

Summary of the discussions of the panels of experts

1. Nine panel discussions were held over the course of the three-day International Meeting. They reflected the Meeting's general theme of establishing indigenous demining capacities in mine-affected countries.

Panel A. Mine surveys

2. The panel looked at this issue in broad terms, with large-scale, nationwide surveys and in the more specific cases of individual minefields. The delegates urged the United Nations to standardize field operations in the areas of electronic equipment, hardware and software supplies to ensure compatibility of statistics.

3. Participants underlined the need for both non-governmental organizations and private companies involved in surveys to make extensive communication with the local population to gather information, to create responsibility for marking and to instil confidence in the mine-clearance team. This could also lead to the establishment of mine-awareness programmes.

Panel B. Current methods of mine clearance

4. Panel discussions centred on manual mine-clearance techniques, although the use of dogs and mechanical vapour sampling also provoked debate. Clearing mines by hand remains the preferred option because it is the safest and most cost-effective method for the time being in countries with low labour costs.

5. There was a call for the development of more durable mine-detection equipment, as well as detectors able to discriminate between mines and other metal fragments and the actual metal found in the ground. Delegates also called for the improvement of information-sharing on current methods of clearance and equipment, with the end result being more sophisticated equipment and fewer casualties.

Panel C. Training indigenous deminers

6. The panel based their discussions on the understanding that indigenous deminers will be the main tool in demining for a long time to come. The experiences of indigenous training programmes in Afghanistan, Cambodia and Mozambique provided concrete examples of how best to proceed on this particular issue.

7. Among the points of discussion were the recruitment of students to central or local mine-clearance training schools; the need for expatriate staff or technical advisers to stay on after the initial establishment of a national demining programme; a recommendation that the United Nations provide pre-tailored material for new demining operations, including standard operating procedures, training and materials. Delegates emphasized the need for continuity in training, from classroom to actual mine clearance and agreed that

/...

the essential prerequisite for a training programme was ready access to equipment, funding and personnel to field the demining teams after graduation. Finally, newly graduated students should be put to work in a high-density minefield to gain immediate experience dealing with live mines.

Panel D. Management of demining operations

8. The dichotomy between the need to train deminers immediately and the need to establish an effective management structure was mentioned by participants. They also emphasized that local personnel should be trained as managers and specialists as well as deminers and that accountability procedures for funding, the legal structure and resources must be implemented.

9. Some participants said it was important to include mine-clearance responsibilities in peace negotiations between former enemies and that the warring parties accept responsibility for clearing their own minefields.

Panel E. New technologies in mine and minefield detection and mine clearance

10. Among the new technologies discussed were magnetic sensors, ground-penetrating radar, improved mine-proof vehicles, improved vapour detection and sampling, search radars, infrared seekers and neutron backscatter sensors.

11. Points of discussion focused on the need for cooperation between countries and companies in developing new technologies, increased funding, a recognition that the best laboratory for experimentation is an actual minefield and the need to match technology to users, because in some cases a low-tech approach may be the best solution.

Panel F. Treatment and rehabilitation of landmine victims

12. Participants were interested in exchanging information on new and improved methods of treating landmine casualties, especially as regards amputation and prosthetic devices. The panel focused on the need to recognize the social and psychological effects of landmines as well as the medical implications.

13. Panellists stressed that although medical treatment provided a short-term treatment for casualties, the best treatment of all was for the banning of landmines and the clearing of all existing mines. They discussed the need for prosthetic devices and medical treatment to be made accessible to all landmine casualties.

Panel G. Emergency mine clearance - problems and solutions

14. A quick response and the fast release of funding for mine-clearance and mine-awareness programmes is essential to any emergency mine clearance, participants agreed. Support was given to the establishment of a standby capacity, perhaps of a military form, to allow for the early deployment of deminers in an emergency situation.

15. They also stressed that emergency clearance teams required the means to destroy all mines located, with suitable clearance vehicles and protection for the teams.

Panel H. Education and training in mine awareness

16. The panellists focused on identifying the different groups in the population most in need of mine-awareness instruction and how the programmes were introduced and carried out in various United Nations mission areas, especially in relation to displaced persons and refugees.

17. They noted that mine-clearance and mine-awareness programmes made a strong contribution to peace-building at the community level, and that mine-awareness programmes needed to be tailored to the situation in each local area. Mine awareness should be an integral part of any national demining programme and the momentum must be kept up as refugees were repatriated back home. Panellists said that the training of mine-awareness instructors should be a function of any demining training school.

Panel I. The integrated mine-clearance programmes - concept and practice

18. An integrated demining programme should have an integrating, coordinating body and separate operational supervision for different activities. That was one theme discussed by panellists, who also agreed that any such programme should have carefully selected priorities taking into account emergencies, development and resources.

19. The role played by non-governmental organizations was acknowledged by panellists. Non-governmental organizations were able to move rapidly in an emergency situation because of their rapid reaction capability and could act informally until a formal body had been established. Non-governmental organizations, the United Nations, any existing government authority and donors should have input into the development of an integrated mine-clearance programme.

20. Some participants contended that the long-term support of the international community was essential for the continued sustainability of an integrated mine-clearance programme.

ANNEX VIII

Concluding statement made by the President of
the International Meeting on Mine Clearance
on 7 July 1995

1. I would like to thank all delegations, United Nations organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have participated in this International Meeting for their strong expression of support that has made the Meeting a success. This Meeting, which was the first of its kind, is an important landmark in the efforts of the international community to address the global landmine crisis.
2. The International Meeting served as a forum for enhancing international awareness of the different dimensions of the landmine problem, to seek further political and financial support for United Nations mine-action activities and to increase international cooperation in this field. Our deliberations clearly indicated once again that we will not be able to rid the world of landmines unless we address the problem in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.
3. Ninety-seven Governments, 11 intergovernmental organizations, 16 United Nations bodies and 31 non-governmental organizations participated in the Meeting and most contributed to the very rich deliberations of the high-level segment.
4. The Secretary-General opened this International Meeting with a very important statement, which set the tone for the deliberations of the high-level segment of the Meeting. He referred to landmines as perverse and insidious weapons of mass destruction that blindly strike civilian populations and highlighted two principal areas for focused action by the international community:
 - (a) Limiting the further proliferation and indiscriminate use of landmines. In that context, he pointed to the importance of the review process of the 1980 Inhumane Weapons Convention and appealed for a moratorium on the export of landmines. He strongly called for a ban on the use, production and stockpiling of those weapons and referred to the Convention on Chemical Weapons as an inspiring precedent;
 - (b) Providing adequate resources for landmine-related activities. In that context he urged all participating States to contribute generously to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance.
5. Participants in the deliberations in the high-level segment stressed the following very important issues:
 - (a) All participants delegations referred to the enormous magnitude of the global landmine crisis, which continued to deteriorate. They emphasized the need for urgent and effective measures to reverse that trend. The appearance of the little Somali girl, Fadumo, brought home not only the scale of the tragedy but also the fact that effective international action can provide to the innocent victims of these indiscriminate weapons hope for the future;

(b) Many delegations and organizations called for a total ban on landmines. Some referred to this as the "ultimate goal" or "desirable objective" we should work towards, while others considered that time had come for such action in the nearest future;

(c) The review of the Inhumane Weapons Convention was regarded by all participants as a very important step towards halting the proliferation and indiscriminate use of landmines. In addition to the 50 countries that are States parties to the Convention, a number of States indicated that they would consider signing it. Most of the participants agreed that the Convention should be applicable to internal conflicts. Some delegations highlighted the need for the Convention to include a ban on non-self-destructing mines and for the establishment of a mechanism to verify compliance. All participants agreed on the need to strengthen the provisions of the Convention and on greater adherence to them;

(d) Most of the participants also highlighted the need for export moratoriums. It was gratifying to note that 20 countries had indicated that they had established such a moratorium and that they would not manufacture or export landmines;

(e) Participants highlighted the need for strengthening the coordination of the United Nations activities in this field. In this connection delegations welcomed the designation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs as the focal point for all landmine-related matters;

(f) Delegations welcomed the leadership role the United Nations had provided in setting the policy framework for international action to address the landmine problem. Many delegations agreed to the emphasis placed on creating indigenous capacities for mine clearance, which is critical for ensuring that mine-affected countries will be able to deal with the problem in the long run;

(g) The Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance, the United Nations demining standby capacity and the landmine database were welcomed as important tools to address the landmine problem;

(h) Very strong support was expressed for the financing of the landmine-related activities and it was gratifying to note that \$85 million had been pledged so far for such activities. Specifically, over \$20 million have been pledged for the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance during the Meeting. A number of countries have also indicated their willingness to make contributions to the Fund in the near future. These resources will enable the United Nations to initiate demining operations in a timely and effective manner;

(i) In addition, participants have also pledged approximately \$7 million to establish a standby capacity within the United Nations. These pledges include the provision of expert personnel, equipment, services and facilities. In-kind contributions have been an important asset to United Nations mine-clearance programmes in the past and will, within this standby arrangement, play an even more important role in the future;

(j) Many delegations highlighted the importance of developing new technologies for mine clearance. To this end several countries have expressed their readiness to finance research projects in this field. Many delegations from mine-affected countries underlined the importance of efficient and affordable mine-clearance equipment.

6. It is true that we are dealing with a problem of enormous proportions. However, we have to remind ourselves that we can do something about this problem and that, in fact, a lot has been done in the past few years. Comprehensive mine-action programmes have been operating for years now in Afghanistan and Cambodia. These programmes, which are run almost entirely by local personnel, have cleared hundreds of thousands of square kilometres of high-priority areas, thus enabling the local population to resume their normal lives. Every mine cleared may have saved the life of one human being. Mine-awareness education programmes have protected people against the risks posed by landmines. Programmes of treatment and rehabilitation have helped and assisted mine victims to reintegrate into society. These important activities have to be sustained and expanded. There is still a large number of countries that do not receive critically needed assistance in mine clearance and related activities.

ANNEX IX

List of documents before the Meeting

Document symbol	Agenda item	Title
SG/CONF.7/1	3	Provisional agenda
SG/CONF.7/2	4	Note by the Secretariat on international efforts to address the global problem of uncleared landmines
SG/CONF.7/3	6	Note by the Secretariat on a proposed framework for a standby capacity of the United Nations in mine clearance
SG/CONF.7/INF.1 and Add.1		Provisional list of participants
Background Paper No. 1	5 (a)	Mine surveys
Background Paper No. 2	5 (b)	Current methods of mine clearance
Background Paper No. 3	5 (c)	Training indigenous deminers
Background Paper No. 4	5 (d)	Management of demining operations
Background Paper No. 5	5 (e)	New technologies in mine and minefield detection and mine clearance
Background Paper No. 6	5 (f)	Treatment and rehabilitation of landmine victims
Background Paper No. 7	5 (g)	Emergency mine clearance - problems and solutions
Background Paper No. 8	5 (h)	Education and training in mine awareness
Background Paper No. 9	5 (i)	The integrated mine-clearance programme - concept and practice
